THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPTAIN SATISH SHARMA) : (a) to (e) The CBI raided the residential and official premises at Dehradun and flat owned by the wife of the Group General Manager, ONGC in connection with possession of assets disproportionate to his known sources of income. LIC policies, jewellery. household articles, FDRs, NSCs, NSSs, etc. were recovered. The case is under investigation by the CBI.

Allotment of Associated Gas to Rajasthan

3736. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Rajasthan's request for allotment of suitable position of associated gas from the proposed gas grid in Gujarat for the purpose of development of industries in the neighbouring districts of Sirohi, Jalore, etc. is still under consideration;

(b) if so, what is the present stage of progress; and

(c) by when, decision in this regard is likely to be taken ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPTAIN SATISH SHARMA) : (a) to (c) Considering the availability of gas in Gujarat, and the allocations already made, no further allocations of gas is feasible at present.

Tender for supply of Boots and Shoes in ONGC

3737. PROF. SAURIN BHATTACHARYA : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the Oil and Natural Gas Commission (ONGC) has sought from the tender participants, for supplies of boots and shoes, extension of tender price offers on number of occasions in the past;

(b) whether it is a fact that the ONGC has not yet decided the same due to some internal problems and as a result of which safety angle of workers and staff has been ignored during the period;

(c) whether efforts have now been made to decide the same tender in the larger interest of safety; and

(d) if so. the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPTAIN SATISH SHARMA) : (a) to (d) In the case of a tender invited by ONGC Headquarters, Dehradun for entering into rate contract for supply of safety shoes, the bidders were asked to extend the validity of their offers three times as the samples were required to be laboratory tested to ensure their conformity with safety regulations. The safety of the workers is not affected in any way as they are already provided with safety shoes as per norms procured by the Regional offices/Projects of ONGC.

Opening of Block for Oil Exploration

3738. SHRI S. S. AHLUWALIA : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Government opened more than 25 blocks for exploration of oil and natural gas by Indian and International companies;

(b) what are the main terms and conditions on which these blocks for exploration were given;

(c) what is the quantity of crude production Government envisages by these blocks; and

(d) what are the likely effects of these offers on ONGC ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPTAIN SATISH SHARMA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Bids will be received under the Fifth Round till 30th June, 1993. The contracts entered into wi h successful bidders will be Production Sharing Contracts in which the contractor would be permitted to recover his costs and then share the profit oil a sliding scale linked to profita-